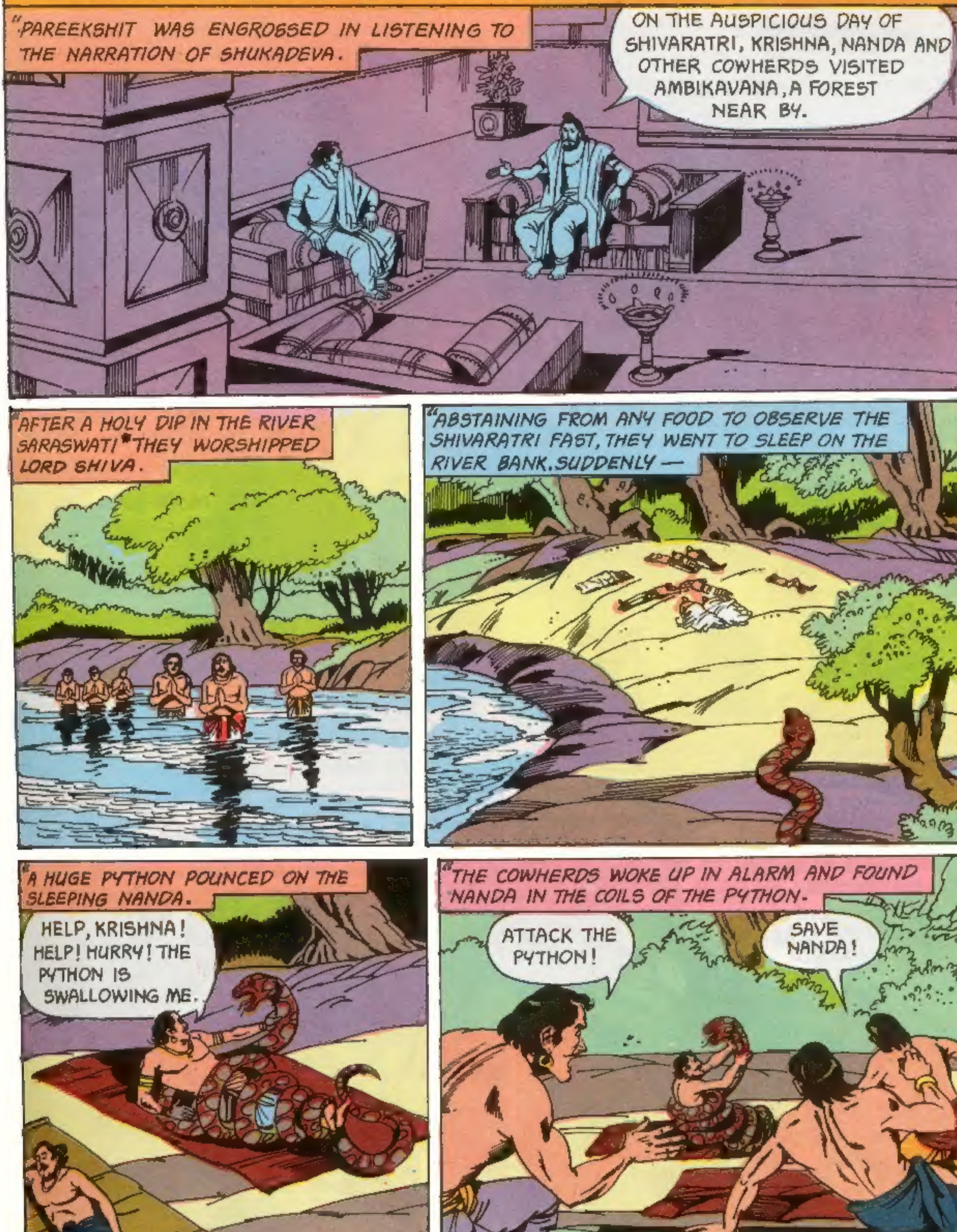
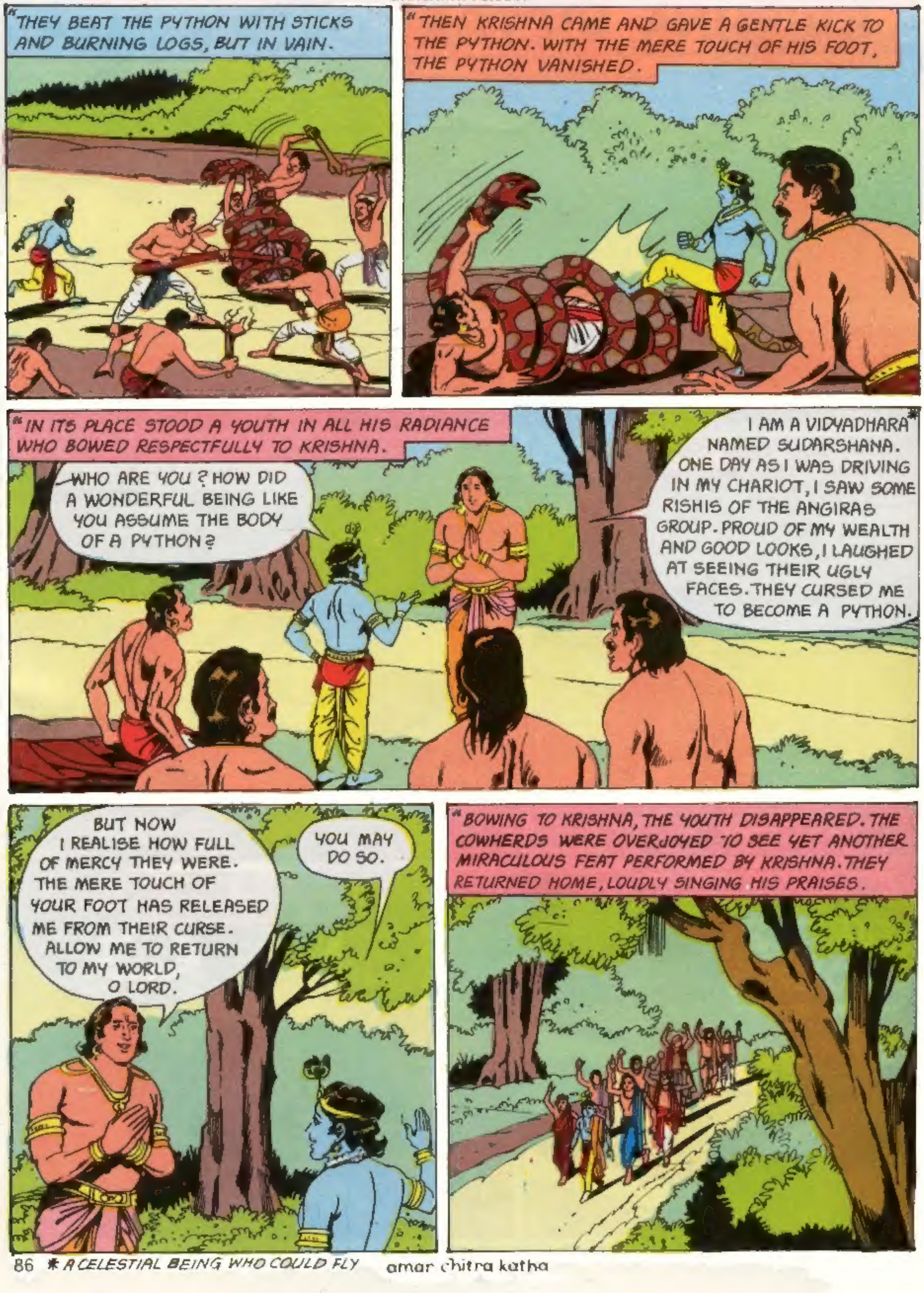
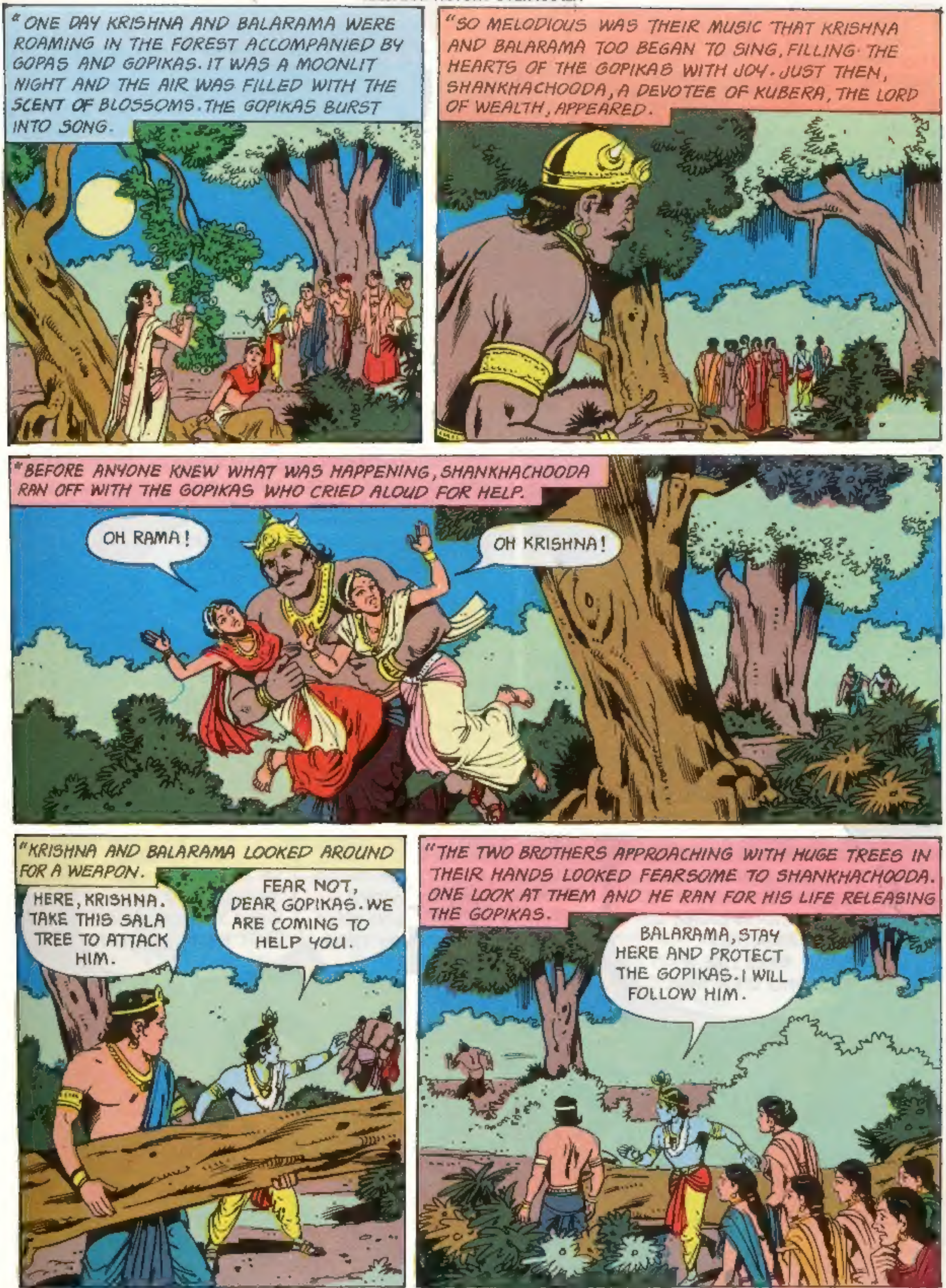
KRISHNA: VICTORY OVER KAMSA



* A RIVER, WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE JOINED GANGA AND YAMUNA NEAR PRAYAG (ALLAHABAD)



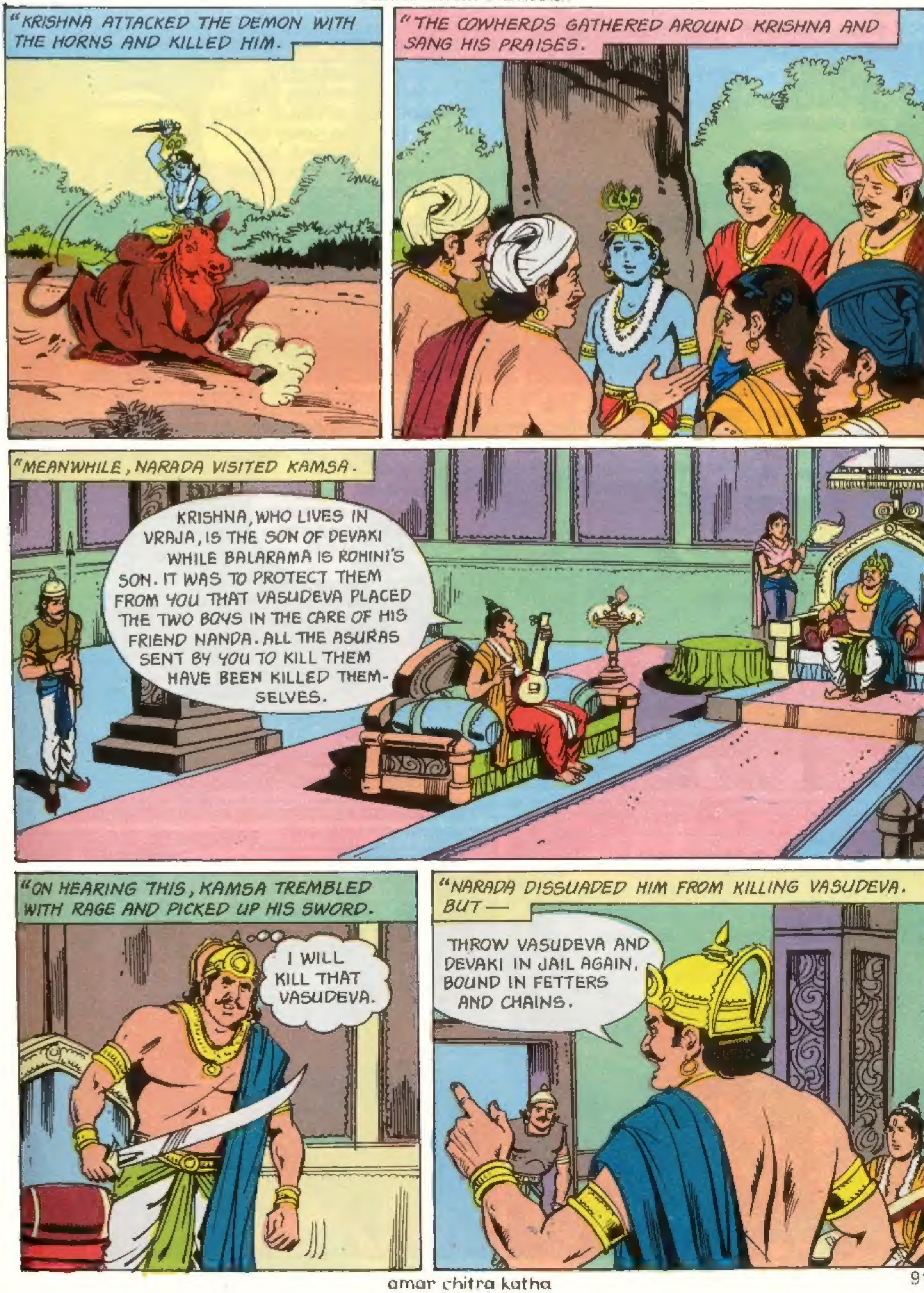
* A CELESTIAL BEING WHO COULD FLY


"ONE DAY KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WERE ROAMING IN THE FOREST ACCOMPANIED BY GOPAS AND GOPIKAS. IT WAS A MOONLIT NIGHT AND THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH THE SCENT OF BLOSSOMS. THE GOPIKAS BURST INTO SONG.
"SO MELODIOUS WAS THEIR MUSIC THAT KRISHNA AND BALARAMA TOO BEGAN TO SING, FILLING THE HEARTS OF THE GOPIKAS WITH JOY. JUST THEN, SHANKHACHOODA, A DEVOTEE OF KUBERA, THE LORD OF WEALTH, APPEARED.
"BEFORE ANYONE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, SHANKHACHOODA RAN OFF WITH THE GOPIKAS WHO CRIED ALOUD FOR HELP.
OH RAMA!
OH KRISHNA!
"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA LOOKED AROUND FOR A WEAPON.
HERE, KRISHNA. TAKE THIS SALA TREE TO ATTACK HIM.
FEAR NOT, DEAR GOPIKAS. WE ARE COMING TO HELP YOU.
"THE TWO BROTHERS APPROACHING WITH HUGE TREES IN THEIR HANDS LOOKED FEARSOME TO SHANKHACHOODA. ONE LOOK AT THEM AND HE RAN FOR HIS LIFE RELEASING THE GOPIKAS.
BALARAMA, STAY HERE AND PROTECT THE GOPIKAS. I WILL FOLLOW HIM.

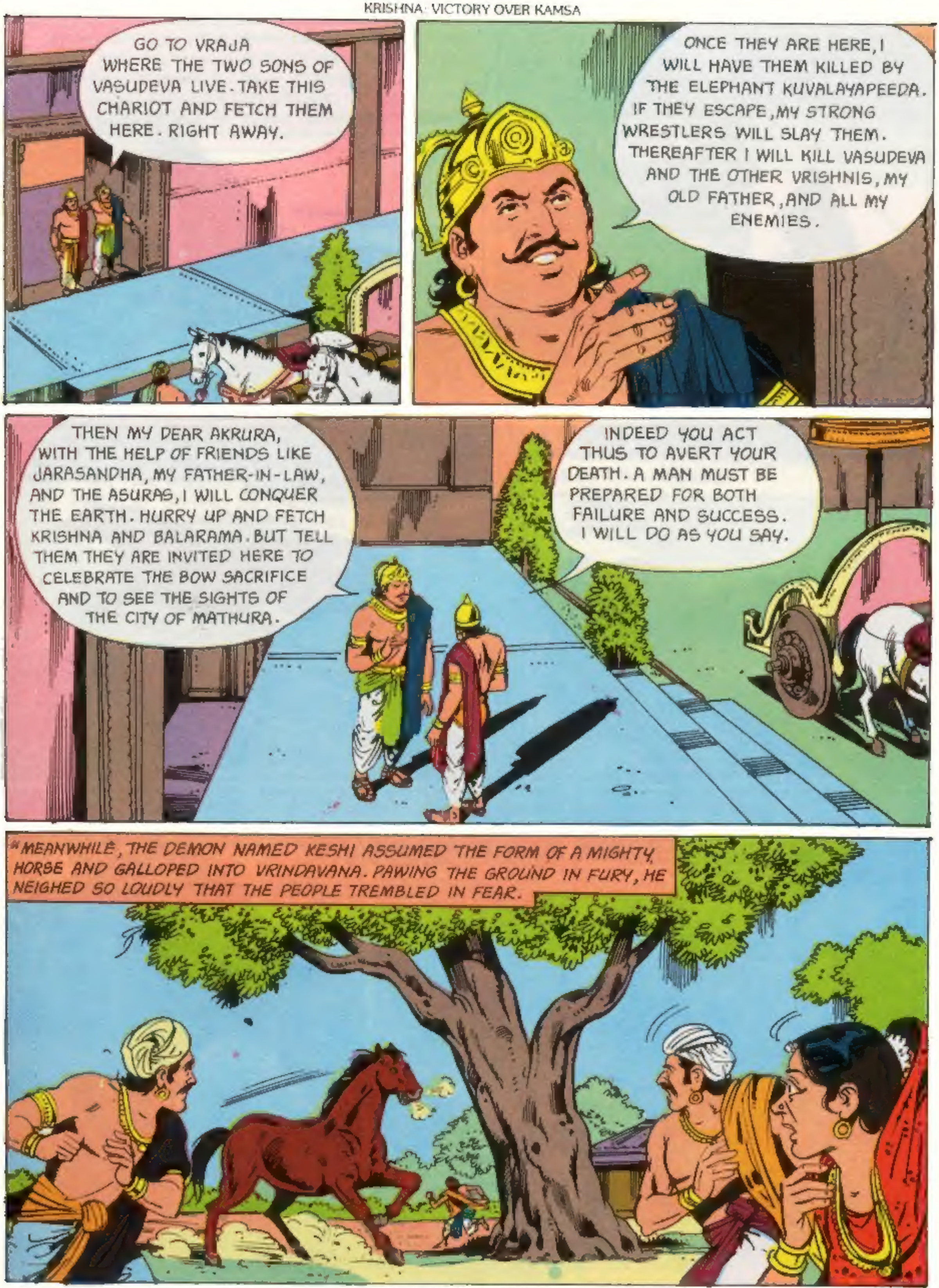

"SHANKHACHOODA RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD THROUGH THE FOREST, BUT KRISHNA PURSUED HIM.
I MUST GET HOLD OF HIM AND TAKE HIS CREST JEWEL.
"THEN, WITH A SINGLE STROKE OF HIS HAND, KRISHNA KNOCKED SHANKHACHOODA'S HEAD OFF.
"KRISHNA TOOK THE SHINING GEM THAT WAS ON SHANKHACHOODA'S HEAD AND PRESENTED IT TO BALARAMA.
"EVERY DAY, WHEN KRISHNA WENT TO THE JUNGLE WITH HIS HERD OF COWS, THE GOPIKAS FELT FORLORN. THEY WOULD CONSOLE THEMSELVES BY TALKING ABOUT KRISHNA AND HIS FEATS.
HOW SWEET ARE THE MELODIES, NANDA'S DARLING BOY PLAYS UPON HIS FLUTE.
EVEN THE DEER AND THE COWS ARE SO CHARMED BY ITS MELODY THAT THEY REMAIN ROOTED TO THE GROUND. PRICKING UP THEIR EARS, THEY STAND STILL LIKE A PAINTING ON A WALL.
WITH THE PEACOCK FEATHER TUCKED INTO HIS CURLY LOCKS, BEDECKED WITH FRESH TWIGS, KRISHNA LOOKS LIKE SOME GREAT WRESTLER, AS HE CALLS EACH OF HIS COWS BY THEIR NAMES.
THE VERY WATERS OF THE RIVER SEEM TO RISE AS IF THEY WANT TO GATHER THE DUST FROM HIS FEET.

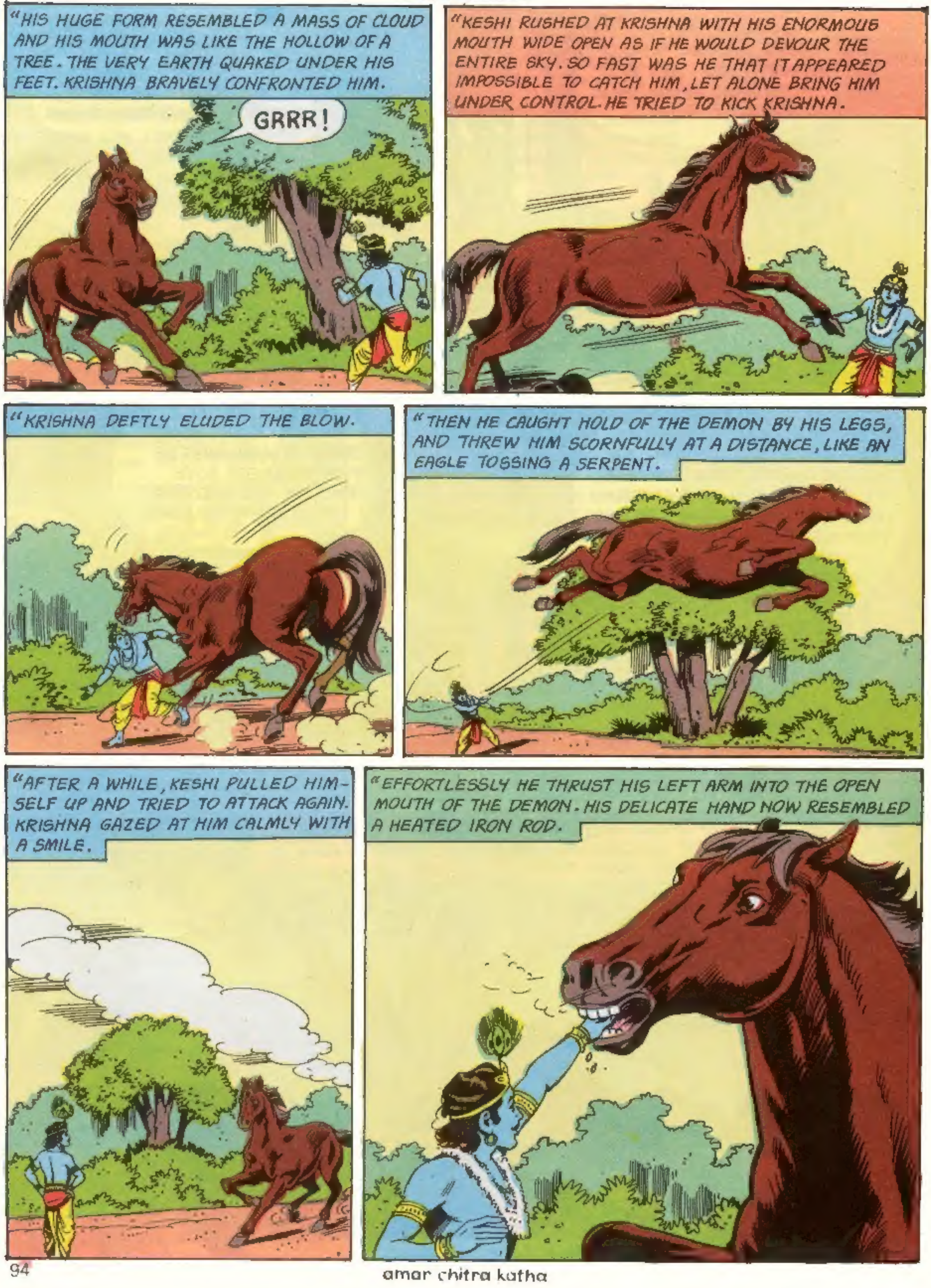

"ONE DAY, WHEN KRISHNA WAS RETURNING FROM THE FOREST AS USUAL, A HUGE BULL CONFRONTED HIM.
"IT WAS THE DEMON ARISHTASURA IN THE FORM OF A BULL. AS HE STAMPED THE GROUND WITH HIS ENORMOUS HOOVES THE VERY EARTH TREMBLED.
GRRR
"KRISHNA SAW THE FENCES WHICH HAD BEEN DEMOLISHED, AND THE CROPS WHICH HAD BEEN TRODDEN UNDERFOOT BY THE BULL.
HE HAS CAUSED HAVOC EVERYWHERE. SAVE US.
GRRR!
THAT ROAR STRIKES TERROR IN OUR HEARTS!
KRISHNA! KRISHNA! PROTECT US!
"KRISHNA COMFORTED THEM.
BE CALM. THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR.
O FOOLISH ONE! LEAVE THESE COWS AND COWHERDS ALONE. I AM HERE TO CRUSH THE PRIDE OF WICKED CREATURES LIKE YOU.


"HAVING CHALLENGED THE DEMON, KRISHNA STOOD BY CALMLY, WITH HIS ARM AROUND A FRIEND. THE ENRAGED CREATURE LEAPT TOWARDS KRISHNA.
"HIS HOOVES DIGGING THE GROUND BENEATH, AND HIS RAISED TAIL SCATTERING THE CLOUDS ABOVE, HE RUSHED MENACINGLY AT KRISHNA, LIKE A THUNDERBOLT HURLED BY INDRA.
"KRISHNA CAUGHT HOLD OF HIS HORNS, AND LIKE AN ELEPHANT FIGHTING ITS RIVAL, DROVE THE ASURA BACK FORCEFULLY.
"KRISHNA NOW STEPPED ON THE BODY OF THE DEMON AND TWISTED IT AROUND AS IF HE WERE WRINGING A WET CLOTH.
"WITH A DEFT MOVEMENT, KRISHNA PULLED OUT ITS SHARP HORNS.


"KRISHNA ATTACKED THE DEMON WITH THE HORNS AND KILLED HIM.
"THE COWHERDS GATHERED AROUND KRISHNA AND SANG HIS PRAISES.
"MEANWHILE, NARADA VISITED KAMSA.
KRISHNA, WHO LIVES IN VRAJA, IS THE SON OF DEVAKI WHILE BALARAMA IS ROHINI'S SON. IT WAS TO PROTECT THEM FROM YOU THAT VASUDEVA PLACED THE TWO BOYS IN THE CARE OF HIS FRIEND NANDA. ALL THE ASURAS SENT BY YOU TO KILL THEM HAVE BEEN KILLED THEMSELVES.
"ON HEARING THIS, KAMSA TREMBLED WITH RAGE AND PICKED UP HIS SWORD.
I WILL KILL THAT VASUDEVA.
"NARADA DISSUADED HIM FROM KILLING VASUDEVA. BUT —
THROW VASUDEVA AND DEVAKI IN JAIL AGAIN, BOUND IN FETTERS AND CHAINS.


"AFTER NARADA WENT AWAY, KAMSA CALLED FOR KESHI, AN ASURA.
GO TO VRAJA AND KILL KRISHNA AND BALARAMA.
AS YOU WISH, O KING.
"THEN HE SUMMONED THE HEFTY MUSHTIKA, CHANURA, AND OTHER WRESTLERS, AS WELL AS HIS MINISTERS AND THE KEEPER OF ELEPHANTS.
LISTEN CAREFULLY, O BRAVE CHANURA AND MUSHTIKA. IN VRAJA THERE LIVE THE TWO SONS OF VASUDEVA, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. I AM TOLD THEY ARE ORDAINED TO KILL ME.
WHEN THEY ARE BROUGHT HERE, YOU MUST KILL THEM UNDER THE PRETEXT OF WRESTLING WITH THEM.
"HE THEN ADDRESSED THE KEEPER OF ELEPHANTS.
O MAHOUT! LET YOUR ELEPHANT KUVALAYAPEEDA STAND AT THE GATE. AS SOON AS MY ENEMIES COME, THE ELEPHANT CAN KILL THEM.
"THEN HE TURNED TO HIS MINISTERS.
LET PREPARATIONS BE STARTED FOR THE CELE-BRATION OF THE BOW SACRIFICE ON THE EVE OF THE FULL MOON DAY. LET SACRIFICES BE MADE TO LORD SHIVA TO ENSURE OUR SUCCESS.
"THEN KAMSA SENT FOR AKRURA THE YADAVA, A KINSMAN OF KRISHNA.
ONLY YOU AMONG THE YADAVAS HAVE MY WELFARE AT HEART. IT IS TO YOU I TURN FOR HELP JUST AS INDRA TURNS TO VISHNU.

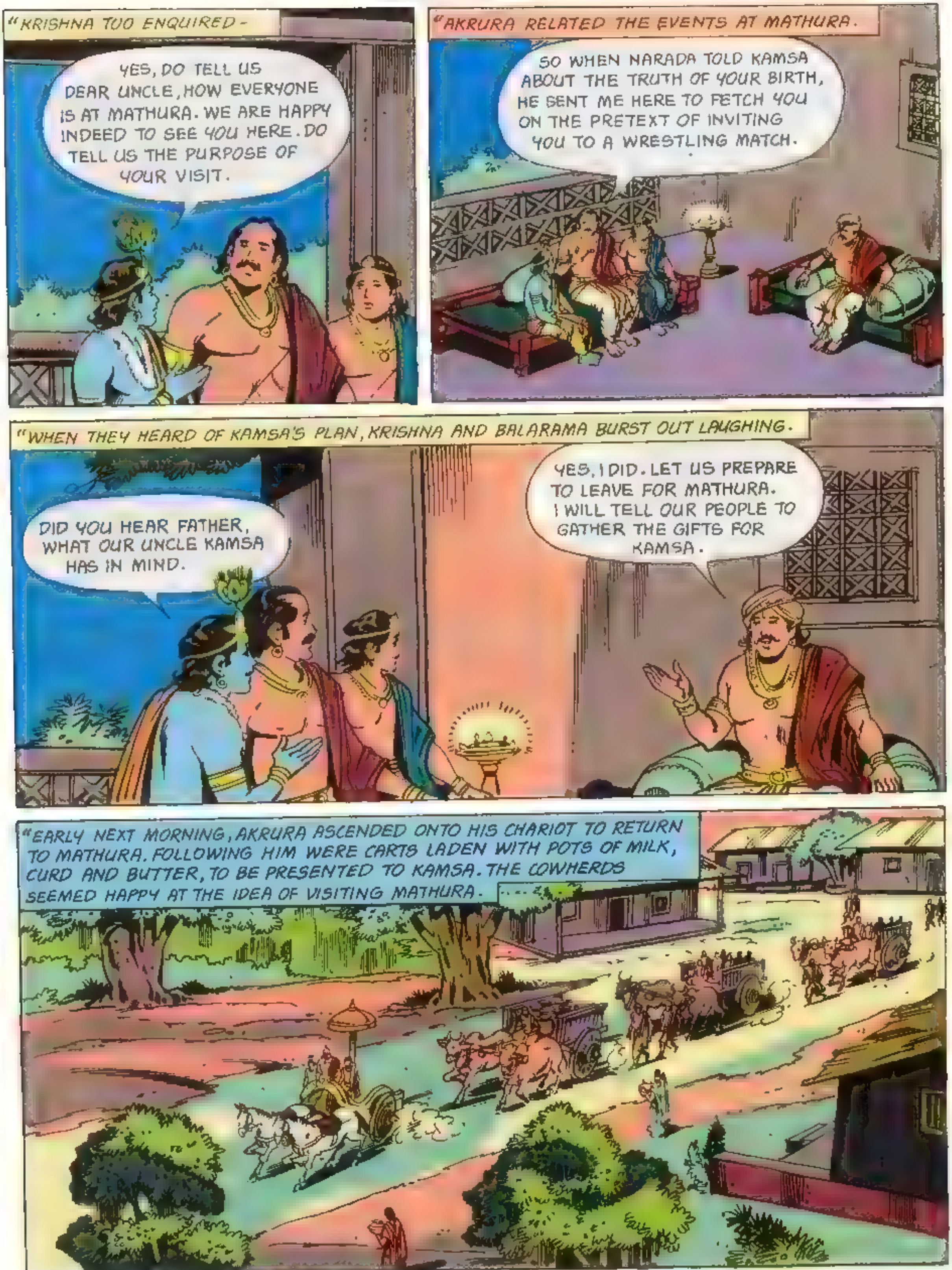

GO TO VRAJA WHERE THE TWO SONS OF VASUDEVA LIVE. TAKE THIS CHARIOT AND FETCH THEM HERE. RIGHT AWAY.
ONCE THEY ARE HERE, I WILL HAVE THEM KILLED BY THE ELEPHANT KUVALAYAPEEDA. IF THEY ESCAPE, MY STRONG WRESTLERS WILL SLAY THEM. THEREAFTER I WILL KILL VASUDEVA AND THE OTHER VRISHNIS, MY OLD FATHER, AND ALL MY ENEMIES.
THEN MY DEAR AKRURA, WITH THE HELP OF FRIENDS LIKE JARASANDHA, MY FATHER-IN-LAW, AND THE ASURAS, I WILL CONQUER THE EARTH. HURRY UP AND FETCH KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. BUT TELL THEM THEY ARE INVITED HERE TO CELEBRATE THE BOW SACRIFICE AND TO SEE THE SIGHTS OF THE CITY OF MATHURA.
INDEED YOU ACT THUS TO AVERT YOUR DEATH. A MAN MUST BE PREPARED FOR BOTH FAILURE AND SUCCESS. I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.
MEANWHILE, THE DEMON NAMED KESHI ASSUMED THE FORM OF A MIGHTY HORSE AND GALLOPED INTO VRINDAVANA. PAWING THE GROUND IN FURY, HE NEIGHED SO LOUDLY THAT THE PEOPLE TREMBLED IN FEAR.

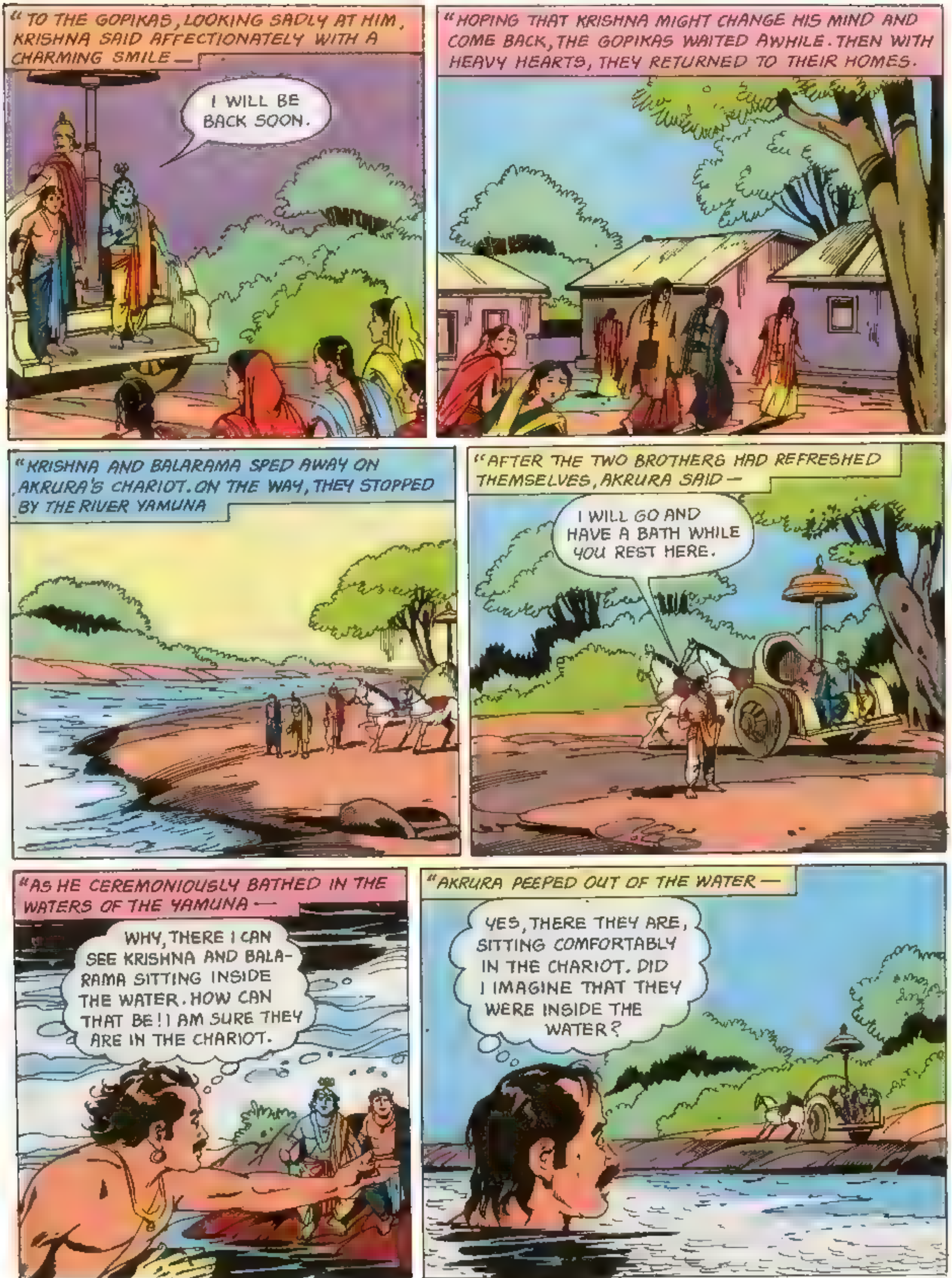

"HIS HUGE FORM RESEMBLED A MASS OF CLOUD AND HIS MOUTH WAS LIKE THE HOLLOW OF A TREE. THE VERY EARTH QUAKED UNDER HIS FEET. KRISHNA BRAVELY CONFRONTED HIM.
GRRR!
"KESHI RUSHED AT KRISHNA WITH HIS ENORMOUS MOUTH WIDE OPEN AS IF HE WOULD DEVOUR THE ENTIRE SKY. SO FAST WAS HE THAT IT APPEARED IMPOSSIBLE TO CATCH HIM, LET ALONE BRING HIM UNDER CONTROL. HE TRIED TO KICK KRISHNA.
"KRISHNA DEFTLY ELUDED THE BLOW.
"THEN HE CAUGHT HOLD OF THE DEMON BY HIS LEGS, AND THREW HIM SCORNFULLY AT A DISTANCE, LIKE AN EAGLE TOSSING A SERPENT.
"AFTER A WHILE, KESHI PULLED HIMSELF UP AND TRIED TO ATTACK AGAIN. KRISHNA GAZED AT HIM CALMLY WITH A SMILE.
"EFFORTLESSLY HE THRUST HIS LEFT ARM INTO THE OPEN MOUTH OF THE DEMON. HIS DELICATE HAND NOW RESEMBLED A HEATED IRON ROD.


"AT THE TOUCH OF KRISHNA'S HAND KESHI'S TEETH BEGAN TO FALL. THEN KRISHNA'S ARM BEGAN TO SWELL INSIDE THE MOUTH OF THE DEMON. LARGER AND LARGER IT GREW, TILL IT CHOKED THE DEMON'S THROAT.
"KESHI FELL TO THE GROUND THROWING UP HIS LEGS DESPERATELY IN THE AIR. HE COLLAPSED AND HIS SWOLLEN FORM BURST LIKE A RIPE CUCUMBER
"A FEW DAYS AFTER KILLING KESHI, KRISHNA WAS PLAYING WITH HIS FRIENDS ON A HILLTOP.
LET'S PLAY HIDE AND SEEK. YOU FIVE WILL BE THE THIEVES, SEVEN OF US WILL BE THE GUARDS WHILE THESE LITTLE BOYS WILL BE THE SHEEP
"THEY WERE DEEPLY ENGROSSED IN THE GAME WHEN VYOMASURA, THE DEMON APPEARED THERE. DISGUISED AS A COWHERD, HE JOINED IN THE GAME AS ONE OF THE THIEVES
"PRETENDING TO PLAY, HE WOULD TAKE AWAY THE LITTLE BOYS WHO HAD BECOME THE SHEEP.
"ONE BY ONE, HE HID THEM IN A CAVE NEAR BY, COVERING THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE WITH A BIG ROCK.


"AS THE GAME PROGRESSED, THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS DWINDLED TILL THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OR FIVE COWHERDS LEFT. KRISHNA HAD OF COURSE REALISED THE TRUTH.
I WILL CATCH HIM THIS TIME. HIS LITTLE GAME IS OVER NOW.
"AS SOON AS VYOMASURA TRIED TO TAKE AWAY ANOTHER 'SHEEP', KRISHNA POUNCED ON HIM, LIKE A LION ATTACKING A WOLF.
"THE DEMON ASSUMED HIS TRUE FEARSOME FORM.
"BUT MUCH AS HE STRUGGLED, VYOMASURA COULD NOT FREE HIMSELF.


"KRISHNA CAUGHT HIM ROUGHLY AND PINNED HIM DOWN TO THE GROUND.
"HAVING KILLED THE DEMON, KRISHNA WENT FORTH TO THE CAVE WHERE HIS COMPANIONS HAD BEEN HIDDEN. BREAKING THE ROCK AT THE ENTRANCE, KRISHNA FREED ALL THE BOYS TRAPPED INSIDE.
"MEANWHILE, AKRURA TOO HAD STARTED FOR VRAJA.
OH, HOW I LONG TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF LORD KRISHNA. KAMSA HAS DONE ME A FAVOUR BY SENDING ME ON THIS MISSION.
"WHEN AT SUNSET HE REACHED HIS DESTINATION, HE SAW KRISHNA AND BALARAMA INSIDE A COW-SHED. AKRURA JUMPED DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT AND PROSTRATED HIMSELF AT THEIR FEET.
"THE TWO BROTHERS AFFECTIONATELY LED AKRURA TO THE HOUSE. THEREAFTER, HE WAS SERVED A SUMPTUOUS MEAL AND HONOURED AS A WELCOME GUEST. NANDA SAID TO AKRURA —
HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS IN THE CRUEL RULE OF KAMSA? HIS SUBJECTS ARE LIKE THE SHEEP REARED BY A BUTCHER SO WE WILL NOT DARE ASK WHETHER YOU ARE HAPPY.


"KRISHNA TOO ENQUIRED -
YES, DO TELL US DEAR UNCLE, HOW EVERYONE IS AT MATHURA. WE ARE HAPPY INDEED TO SEE YOU HERE. DO TELL US THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT.
"AKRURA RELATED THE EVENTS AT MATHURA.
SO WHEN NARADA TOLD KAMSA ABOUT THE TRUTH OF YOUR BIRTH, HE SENT ME HERE TO FETCH YOU ON THE PRETEXT OF INVITING YOU TO A WRESTLING MATCH.
"WHEN THEY HEARD OF KAMSA'S PLAN, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA BURST OUT LAUGHING.
DID YOU HEAR FATHER, WHAT OUR UNCLE KAMSA HAS IN MIND.
YES, I DID. LET US PREPARE TO LEAVE FOR MATHURA. I WILL TELL OUR PEOPLE TO GATHER THE GIFTS FOR KAMSA.
"EARLY NEXT MORNING, AKRURA ASCENDED ONTO HIS CHARIOT TO RETURN TO MATHURA. FOLLOWING HIM WERE CARTS LADEN WITH POTS OF MILK, CURD AND BUTTER, TO BE PRESENTED TO KAMSA. THE COWHERDS SEEMED HAPPY AT THE IDEA OF VISITING MATHURA.


"TO THE GOPIKAS, LOOKING SADLY AT HIM, KRISHNA SAID AFFECTIONATELY WITH A CHARMING SMILE —
I WILL BE BACK SOON.
"HOPING THAT KRISHNA MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND AND COME BACK, THE GOPIKAS WAITED AWHILE. THEN WITH HEAVY HEARTS, THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.
"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA SPED AWAY ON AKRURA'S CHARIOT. ON THE WAY, THEY STOPPED BY THE RIVER YAMUNA
"AFTER THE TWO BROTHERS HAD REFRESHED THEMSELVES, AKRURA SAID —
I WILL GO AND HAVE A BATH WHILE YOU REST HERE.
"AS HE CEREMONIOUSLY BATHED IN THE WATERS OF THE YAMUNA —
WHY, THERE I CAN SEE KRISHNA AND BALARAMA SITTING INSIDE THE WATER. HOW CAN THAT BE! I AM SURE THEY ARE IN THE CHARIOT.
"AKRURA PEEPED OUT OF THE WATER —
YES, THERE THEY ARE, SITTING COMFORTABLY IN THE CHARIOT. DID I IMAGINE THAT THEY WERE INSIDE THE WATER?



* THE SERPENT ON WHICH VISHNU RESTS



* THE ADDRESS USED BY KRISHNA FOR BALARAMA

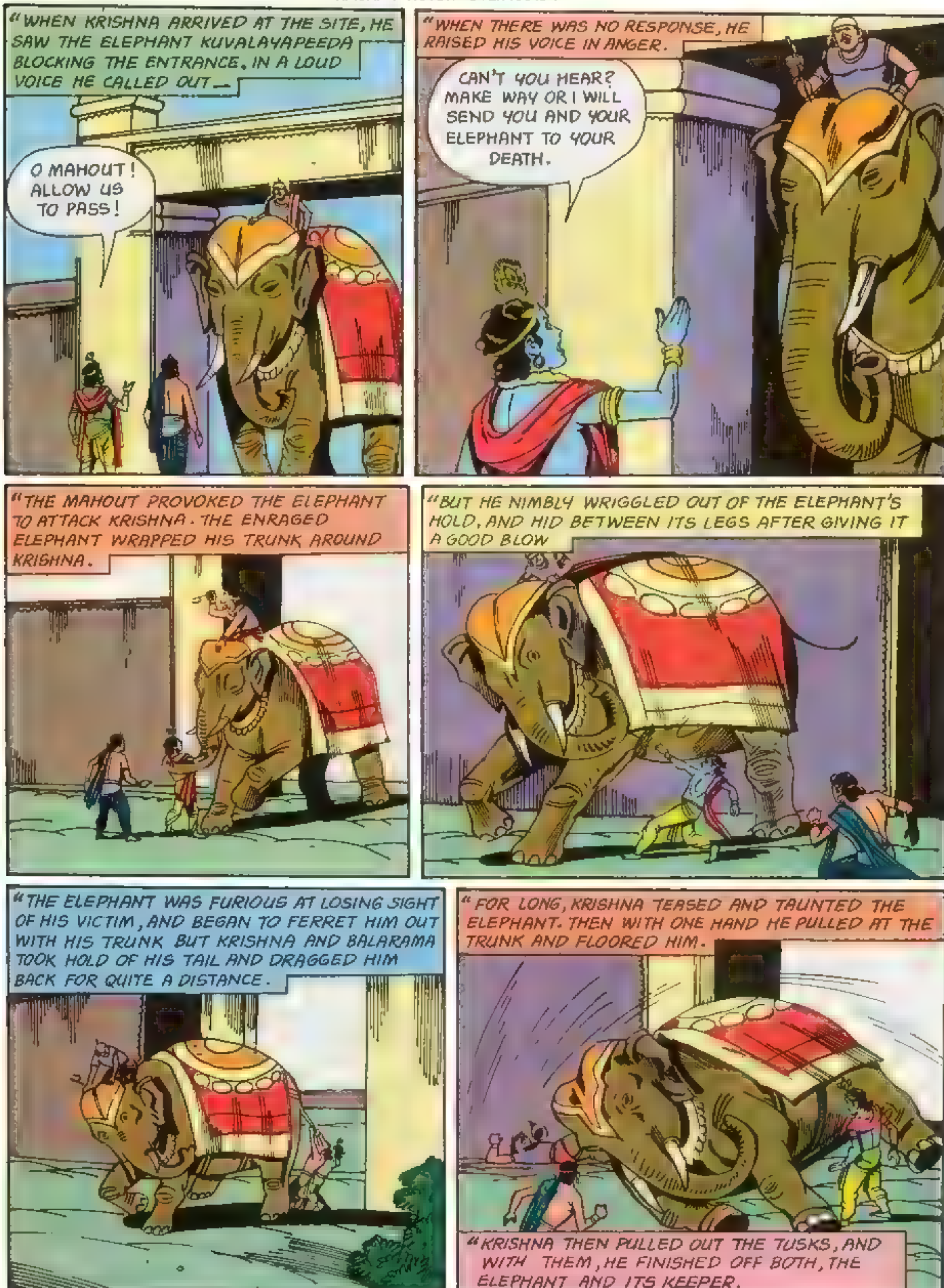

"JUST THEN, KRISHNA SAW A WASHERMAN PASS BY.
WAIT ! YOU WILL PROSPER BY GIVING US SUITABLE CLOTHES.
"BUT THE WASHERMAN, A SERVANT OF KAMSA, SAID ANGRILY —
YOU ILL-MANNERED FOOLS ! RUN AWAY. YOU WHO LIVE IN FORESTS AND MOUNTAINS, HOW CAN YOU THINK OF DRESSING IN SUCH FINE CLOTHES ? IF THE KING'S OFFICERS SEE ARROGANT PEOPLE LIKE YOU, THEY WILL TAKE YOU PRISONER AND KILL YOU.
"WHEN THE WASHERMAN SPOKE SO RUDELY, KRISHNA SLAPPED HIM ON HIS FACE
THE WASHERMAN'S ASSISTANTS FLED IN FRIGHT WHEN THEIR MASTER FELL DOWN.
"KRISHNA PICKED UP THE BUNDLES, THROWN BY THE WASHERMEN AND DISTRIBUTED THE CLOTHES AMONG THE COWHERDS.
HERE, BALARAMA, TAKE THESE.


"WHEN THEY WENT A LITTLE AHEAD, THEY CAME UPON A TAILOR. HE FITTED THE COLOURFUL GARMENTS ON KRISHNA AND THE OTHER COWHERDS, IN A MOST BECOMING FASHION.
"THE DARK KRISHNA AND THE FAIR BALARAMA LOOKED LIKE A PAIR OF ELEPHANTS, ONE BLACK AND THE OTHER WHITE, DECORATED FOR A FESTIVAL. KRISHNA WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE TAILOR AND BLESSED HIM.
MAY YOU HAVE HEALTH, WEALTH AND PROSPERITY.
"THEREAFTER, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WENT TO THE HOUSE OF SUDAMA, THE FLOWERMAN, WHO WELCOMED THE TWO BROTHERS AND WORSHIPPED THEM WITH GARLANDS OF FLOWERS, SANDAL-PASTE AND BETEL LEAVES.
O LORD, I AM BLESSED BY THIS VISIT OF YOURS.
"SUDAMA THEN PRESENTED KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WITH GARLANDS OF THE FINEST AND MOST FRAGRANT FLOWERS.
THEREUPON, O PAREEKSHIT, KRISHNA BESTOWED ON SUDAMA SEVERAL BOONS, INCLUDING EVER-GROWING PROSPERITY, LONG LIFE AND FAME.
"AS KRISHNA AND HIS FRIENDS WERE SAUNTERING ALONG ON THE MAIN ROAD OF MATHURA, THEY SAW A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WITH A HUMPED BACK.
O BEAUTIFUL ONE, WHO ARE YOU ? FOR WHOM ARE YOU CARRYING THIS SANDAL-PASTE ?


"THE HUNCHBACK WAS COMPLETELY CAPTIVATED BY KRISHNA'S LOOKS, HIS GENTLE SMILE, AND FRIENDLINESS.
MY NAME IS TRIVAKRA, O HANDSOME ONE ! I AM A FAVOURITE SERVANT OF KAMSA. I MAKE SPECIAL SANDAL-PASTE AND OINTMENTS FOR HIM
BUT NONE IS MORE WORTHY OF BEING ANOINTED BY THESE OINTMENTS THAN THE TWO OF YOU. ACCEPT THIS.
"WITH THE YELLOW PASTE CONTRASTING WITH KRISHNA'S DARK COMPLEXION, AND THE RED COLOURED PASTE ON BALARAMA'S FAIR BODY, THEY LOOKED VERY ATTRACTIVE.
I MUST HELP HER BY MAKING HER BODY STRAIGHT.
"KRISHNA PLACED HIS TWO FEET ON THE TOES OF THE HUNCHBACK. HE RAISED HIS HANDS AND WITH HIS FINGERS HE PUSHED UP HER CHIN WITH A SLIGHT JERK.
"AT THE TOUCH OF HIS HAND, TRIVAKRA LOST HER HUMP, AND STOOD BEFORE HIM, HER BODY ERECT AND WELL PROPORTIONED.
"HOLDING A CORNER OF KRISHNA'S GARMENT, SHE SAID —
YOU BOTH MUST COME TO MY HOUSE. I CANNOT GO AWAY LEAVING YOU HERE.
I WILL COME, BUT ONLY AFTER MY TASK IS OVER.
"THUS WITH SWEET WORDS, KRISHNA TOOK LEAVE OF HER.

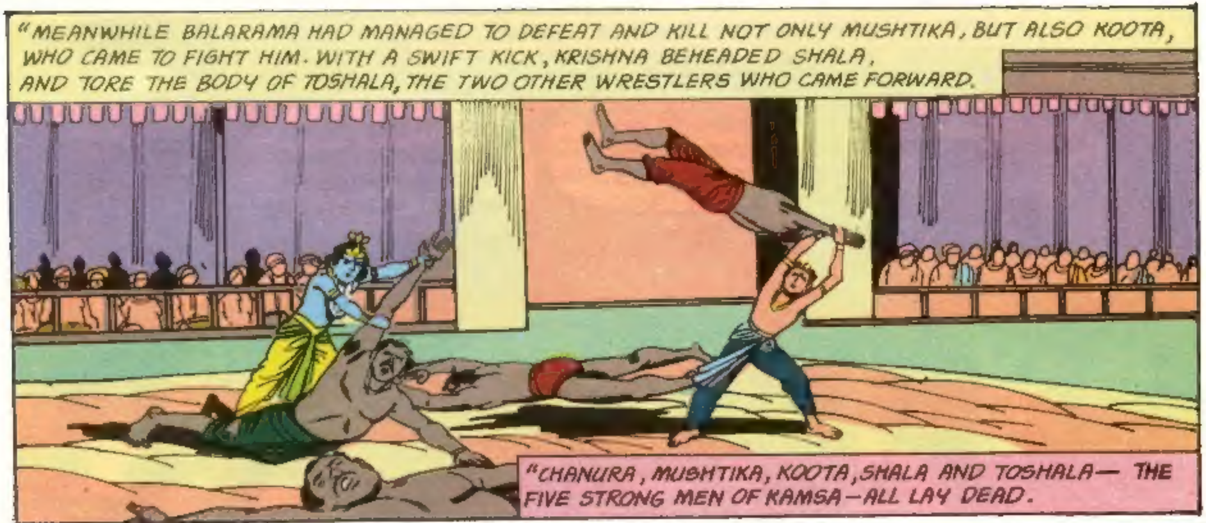

"AT LAST THEY REACHED THE SITE OF THE SACRIFICE. ON ENTERING, THEY SAW A LARGE AND MIGHTY BOW. RESPLENDENT LIKE A RAINBOW, IT WAS STUDDED WITH EXPENSIVE JEWELS. SEVERAL GUARDS WERE STANDING AROUND, PROTECTING IT. IGNORING THEIR PROTESTS, KRISHNA REACHED FOR THE MIGHTY BOW.
"WITH HIS LEFT HAND HE DEFTLY LIFTED THE BOW, STRUNG IT, AND IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, SPLIT THE BOW INTO TWO.
"BY NOW, THE GUARDS WERE ALERTED, AND SURROUNDED KRISHNA.
CATCH HIM!
DON'T LET HIM GO!
"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA PICKED UP THE PIECES OF THE BOW AND BEGAN TO USE THEM AS WEAPONS
"AFTER VANQUISHING THE GUARDS WITH THEIR MAKESHIFT WEAPONS, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA STEPPED OUT OF THE HALL AND ROAMED ABOUT.
LOOK AT THESE TWO BRAVE MEN.
SURELY THEY ARE OF DIVINE ORIGIN.

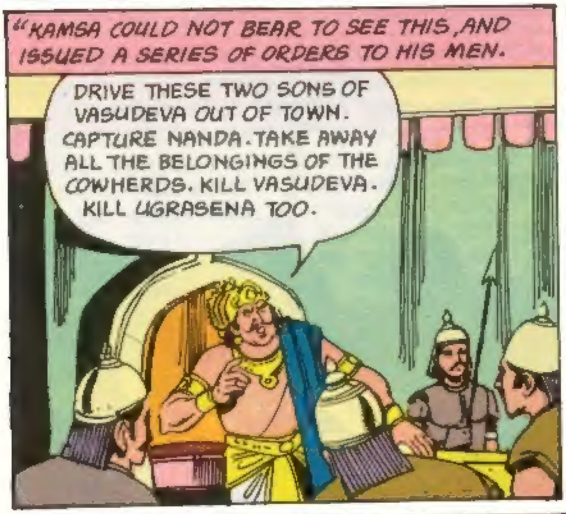

"AT SUNSET, THEY RETURNED TO THEIR CAMP, WHERE THEIR CARTS HAD BEEN KEPT. AFTER WASHING UP AND EATING A MEAL OF DELICACIES MADE OF MILK, THEY SLEPT PEACEFULLY.
"MEANWHILE, WHEN KAMSA HEARD THAT KRISHNA AND BALARAMA HAD NOT ONLY BROKEN THE BOW, BUT ALSO KILLED HIS GUARDS WITH EASE, HE WAS WORRIED. HE SPENT A SLEEPLESS NIGHT AMIDST SEVERAL ILL OMENS. WHEN HE LOOKED IN THE MIRROR—
WHY, I CAN'T SEE MY HEAD IN THE REFLECTION.
"WHEN AT LAST HE DRIFTED INTO A FITFUL SLEEP, HE HAD TERRIBLE NIGHTMARES, AND GOT UP WITH A FRIGHT.
"RECOVERING A LITTLE AT DAWN, KAMSA INAUGURATED THE FESTIVAL OF WRESTLING MATCHES. THE PLACE WAS WELL DECORATED WITH GARLANDS, BANNERS AND BUNTING. MELODIOUS MUSIC WAS BEING PLAYED IN THE BACKGROUND.
"BENCHES WERE PROVIDED FOR ALL CITIZENS. ON THE HIGHEST POINT WAS PLACED THE ROYAL THRONE FOR KAMSA, WHO WAS STILL IN A DISTURBED STATE.
"THEN CHAMPIONS LIKE CHANURA AND MUSHTIKA, ARRIVED IN THE ARENA ONE BY ONE.


"WHEN KRISHNA ARRIVED AT THE SITE, HE SAW THE ELEPHANT KUVALAYAPEEDA BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE. IN A LOUD VOICE HE CALLED OUT –
O MAHOUT! ALLOW US TO PASS!
"WHEN THERE WAS NO RESPONSE, HE RAISED HIS VOICE IN ANGER.
CAN'T YOU HEAR? MAKE WAY OR I WILL SEND YOU AND YOUR ELEPHANT TO YOUR DEATH.
"THE MAHOUT PROVOKED THE ELEPHANT TO ATTACK KRISHNA. THE ENRAGED ELEPHANT WRAPPED HIS TRUNK AROUND KRISHNA.
"BUT HE NIMBLY WRIGGLED OUT OF THE ELEPHANT'S HOLD, AND HID BETWEEN ITS LEGS AFTER GIVING IT A GOOD BLOW
"THE ELEPHANT WAS FURIOUS AT LOSING SIGHT OF HIS VICTIM, AND BEGAN TO FERRET HIM OUT WITH HIS TRUNK BUT KRISHNA AND BALARAMA TOOK HOLD OF HIS TAIL AND DRAGGED HIM BACK FOR QUITE A DISTANCE.
"FOR LONG, KRISHNA TEASED AND TAUNTED THE ELEPHANT. THEN WITH ONE HAND HE PULLED AT THE TRUNK AND FLOORED HIM.
"KRISHNA THEN PULLED OUT THE TUSKS, AND WITH THEM, HE FINISHED OFF BOTH, THE ELEPHANT AND ITS KEEPER.

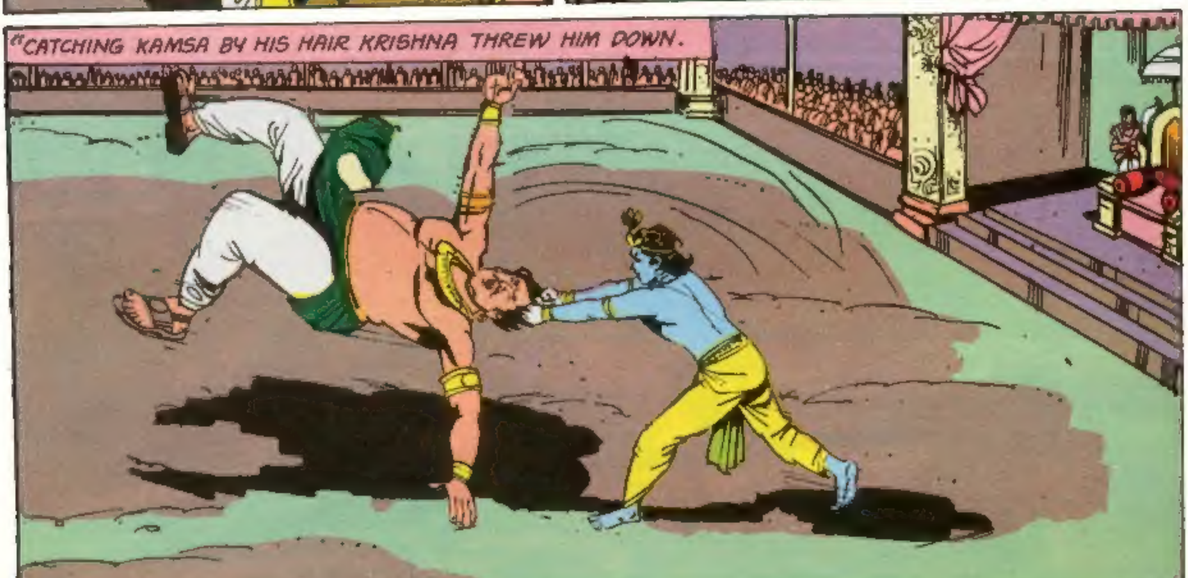

"HOLDING THE TUSKS ON HIS SHOULDER, KRISHNA ENTERED THE ARENA. PEOPLE OF MATHURA BEGAN TO WHISPER AMONG THEMSELVES.
HE IS THE ONE WHO KILLED POOTANA.
ALSO TRINAVARTA, KESHI AND DHENUKA.
HE IS THE ONE WHO CONQUERED KALIYA.
"ADDRESSING KRISHNA AND BALARAMA, CHANURA, THE ACE WRESTLER, SAID —
WELCOME, KRISHNA AND BALA-RAMA. OUR KING HAS INVITED YOU HERE TO SHOW YOUR SKILL.
YES CHANURA, WE WOULD LOVE TO DO SO. BUT WE ARE MERE CHILDREN. IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR YOU TO COMPETE WITH YOUNGSTERS.
"CHANURA SAID —
HAH! YOU AND BALARAMA ARE NEITHER CHILDREN NOR YOUNG-STERS. WHY, ONLY MOMENTS AGO YOU PLAYFULLY KILLED THE MIGHTY ELEPHANT KUVALAYAPEEDA. COME ON KRISHNA, TRY YOUR MIGHT ON ME, WHILE BALARAMA FIGHTS MUSHTIKA.
"THE CHALLENGE WAS ACCEPTED. THE FIGHT BEGAN IN EARNEST AS THE PAIR OF WRESTLERS TURNED AND TWISTED, ROLLED AND JUMPED, PULLED AND PUSHED AT EACH OTHER.


"THE AUDIENCE, ESPECIALLY THE WOMEN WERE DISTURBED AS THEY SAW WHAT SEEMED AN UNEQUAL COMBAT.
HOW CAN KING KAMSA ALLOW THIS INJUSTICE?
LET US GO AWAY. I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE THIS.
YES. THESE POOR YOUNG BOYS BEING PITTED AGAINST EXPERT WRESTLERS.
"VASUDEVA AND DEVAKI OVERHEARD THIS CONVERSATION AS THEIR PRISON WAS VERY NEAR THE ARENA. THEY WERE FILLED WITH WORRY AND ANXIETY.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR DEAR BOYS.
IMAGINE FIGHTING WITH THOSE POWERFUL MEN.
"BY NOW CHANURA WAS BEGINNING TO REGRET HIS CHALLENGE TO KRISHNA. IN FRUSTRATION, HE ATTACKED KRISHNA ON THE CHEST WITH HIS CLENCHED FISTS.
"UNPERTURBED, KRISHNA CAUGHT HOLD OF HIS ARMS AND FLUNG HIM ON THE GROUND AFTER TURNING HIM AROUND SEVERAL TIMES IN THE AIR.


"MEANWHILE BALARAMA HAD MANAGED TO DEFEAT AND KILL NOT ONLY MUSHTIKA, BUT ALSO KOOTA, WHO CAME TO FIGHT HIM. WITH A SWIFT KICK, KRISHNA BEHEADED SHALA, AND TORE THE BODY OF TOSHALA, THE TWO OTHER WRESTLERS WHO CAME FORWARD.
"CHANURA, MUSHTIKA, KOOTA, SHALA AND TOSHALA— THE FIVE STRONG MEN OF KAMSA—ALL LAY DEAD.


"KAMSA COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THIS, AND ISSUED A SERIES OF ORDERS TO HIS MEN.
DRIVE THESE TWO SONS OF VASUDEVA OUT OF TOWN. CAPTURE NANDA. TAKE AWAY ALL THE BELONGINGS OF THE COWHERDS. KILL VASUDEVA. KILL UGRASENA TOO.


"EVEN AS KAMSA WAS ISSUING THESE ORDERS, KRISHNA LEAPT UP TO HIS HIGH SEAT. KAMSA TRIED TO DEFEND HIMSELF, BRANDISHING HIS SWORD.


"CATCHING KAMSA BY HIS HAIR KRISHNA THREW HIM DOWN.


"KRISHNA THEN JUMPED ON KAMSA, KILLING HIM THAT VERY INSTANT.
"KRISHNA DRAGGED KAMSA'S BODY ON THE FLOOR OF THE ARENA AMIDST LOUD CRIES FROM THE AUDIENCE.
"KAMSA HAD EIGHT YOUNGER BROTHERS, WHO RUSHED AT KRISHNA AND BALARAMA TO TAKE REVENGE ...
"...BUT BALARAMA KILLED THEM ALL.
THEREAFTER, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA HURRIED TO THE PRISON TO FREE VASUDEVA AND DEVAKI. THOUGH FILLED WITH JOY TO SEE KRISHNA, HIS PARENTS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE LORD AS THEIR OWN SON.
THUS ENDS THE FOURTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF THE TENTH CHAPTER OF THE BHAGAWAT PURANA.